

Paint With **Action Verbs** Brush Strokes

Imagine that you are the author of *Treasure Island* and below is your draft. As you examine it, you realize that it is loaded with ineffective *being* verbs (*is, was, were, are,* and other forms of the verb *to be*) that slow down the pace. **Rewrite the draft eliminating as many of the *being* verbs as you can by replacing them with brush strokes or action verbs.** For example, you can combine sentences like the following.

"The dog sat under a tree. He was scratching his neck."

"The dog sat under a tree, **scratching his neck.**"

We eliminated the being verb (**was**) and create a **participle** (scratching his neck).

Treasure Island Rough Draft with *Being* Verbs added.

I remember him as if it **were** yesterday. He **was** a tall, strong, heavy, nut-brown man. What **was** noticeable **was** his jet black pigtail and his soiled blue coat. He had a handspike. His hands **were** rugged and scarred with black broken nails, and there **was** a cut across one cheek of a dirty, livid white.

Put your re-write HERE.

1. **Absolute:**
 - a. **Engine smoking, gears grinding**, the car went into the parking lot.
2. **Appositive:**
 - a. The car, **a 1936 Ford**, went into the parking lot.
3. **Participle Brush Stroke:**
 - a. **Sliding on the loose gravel**, the car went into the parking lot.
4. **Adjectives-Out-of-Order:**
 - a. The car, **dented and rusty**, went into the parking lot.
5. **Active verbs:**
 - a. The car **chugged** into the parking lot.